

Plowright R, Witthaus E and Bradley C (2000) Psychometric evaluation of Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire in 8 languages. *Proceedings of the British Psychological Society*, **8** (2) 43.

Poster at BPS 2000 Annual Conference, Winchester, 13 - 16 April 2000

Psychometric evaluation of Diabetes Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire in 8 languages

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Objectives: To confirm the psychometric properties of the 8-item DTSQ status version (DTSQs) in English (UK), French, German (Germany, Austria) and Swedish; and to evaluate English (for S.Africa and USA) and four new translations: Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Finnish.

Design: Baseline data came from 2,223 patients with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes participating in HMR multinational, open-label, randomised-controlled trials comparing insulin glargine with NPH insulin.

Method: Factor analysis and reliability tests were used to check the psychometric properties of each language and the results were compared with those of the reference language (English).

Results: The expected factor structure has five Satisfaction items loading highly on Factor 1. Q.6 usually produces a satisfactory but slightly lower loading on Factor 1, e.g. in this study, English Factor 1 loadings were >0.69 except Q.6 (0.54). The two perceived blood glucose level items are treated individually. Factor structure was confirmed in English (UK, S.Africa, USA) German (Germany, Austria), Swedish, French, Danish and Norwegian. Dutch and Finnish were less clear. Forced 1-factor analyses showed all six Satisfaction items loading >0.4 in all languages except Dutch (where Q.6 loaded 0.326). The slightly less than perfect factor structures occurred in languages for which Ns were on or below the ideal minimum (range of N = 61-101). Cronbach's reliability coefficients were nevertheless high in all languages (alphas = 0.782 to 0.894).

Conclusions: The reliability of the DTSQs is confirmed for use in all eight languages. Factor structure needs further testing on larger samples for Dutch and Finnish.